

## NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS COUNCIL OF CLARK COUNTY

### AUGUST 12, 2003 MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Doug Ballou at 7:05 p.m. Introductions were made and those in attendance were:

Bud Van Cleve, NEHDNA; Dick Durland, Sherwood Hills; Holly Gaya, CCPIO; Doug Ballou, Chair; George Vartanian, FGNA; Susan Gilbert, EPPNA; James and Carol Jelley, EENA; William Moyer, PHNA; Doug Carr, Battleground NA; Linda Franklin, Clark County Assessor; Sue Almryde, La Center; Curt Wyrick, Deputy Prosecuting Attorney; Bill Barron, Clark County Administrator; Bridget Schwarz, FGNA; Keith Pfeifer; Bill Thomas; Mary Keltz, Clark County; Carolyn Medecies, Clark County; and Tom Stafford, Meadow Glade NA.

Doug introduced Linda Franklin of the Department of Assessment and GIS who explained to the group about the Treasurers mailing of second-half tax statements coming out the same time as the Assessor Notices of Value. There may be some confusion when received so she wanted the NA to have a heads up in case anyone was called because of the confusion. (Letter to county taxpayers attached.)

Doug then introduced Bill Barron, County Administrator and Curt Wyrick, Deputy Prosecuting Attorney, who gave a presentation of the status of the Cowlitz Tribe and their purchase of 158 acres at the LaCenter overpass on both the north and south side of 319<sup>th</sup> St.

#### THE COWLITZ

As a short history lesson, the Cowlitz approached Commissioner Morris two years ago floating the possibility of occupying land in Clark, Lewis and Cowlitz counties. Tonight's meeting is a result of those discussions which have ended up in a Memorandum of Understanding draft agreement. Twenty one years ago the Cowlitz applied for recognition and was ultimately challenged by the Quinault Tribe which fought the Cowlitz bitterly for three years. The BIA finally recognized the Cowlitz and in April of 2001 the tribe applied for trust status on the 158 acres. On the 28<sup>th</sup> of April of that year, the county filed a critique of response indicating its concern with this probably development being an "island" outside the urban growth boundary and not in keeping with Washington State's Growth Management Act. In December of 2002, the BIA indicated to the Cowlitz that it would approve the trust status for what the land is to be used for. The Cowlitz had to declare its use or they would not approve it for trust status. There is some confusion about where the application stands now. A lawyer for the tribe indicated that the application is still in process with the BIA – either in Portland or D.C. and an environmental assessment is being made. The application will then move back through Portland with a response period allowed.

The Board of Commissioners had mixed emotions about how the county should participate. The best judgment made was that the land would go into fee into trust and will be approved. The MOU drawn up by the county is the culmination of 3 or 4 existing agreements between tribes and local governments. The Sheriff's department did research on possible uses and came up with a figure; Public Works was also approached; and the Fire District has been in touch directly with the D.C. attorney for the tribe. According to the agreement, 2% of the net

income from a community fund is to be put in "trust" for neighborhood associations, non-profits, etc. to make application for use of funds.

There was talk of a gambling tax being imposed but that was taken off the table in lieu of direct dollars from the tribe.

The MOU has not been signed by the tribe at this writing and there is no indication on timing.

#### PUBLIC SERVICE CENTER PARKING

Bill Barron gave a short report on the progress of improving parking at the Public Service Center. At this time, jury parking is being taken up by construction equipment and all construction should be done by year end, at which time a better evaluation can be made. There were a couple of suggestions by NACCC members: A couple of 10-minute spaces out in front of building for those people just dropping off or picking up material and the possible public use of some of the staff parking when staff is not present.

#### NACCC VALUES

Doug then introduced some proposed values that NACCC would like to adopt. We value our role as effective spokesmen to various government agencies. As Neighborhood Leaders and community activists, NACCC values:

1. We value the quality of life in our community and enhancing the livability.
2. We value the services provided by the various government agencies entrusted to serve the public.
3. We value a positive approach when addressing issues impacting our community.
4. We value a diverse membership representing different points of view.
5. We value respecting differing points of view.
6. We value our role as effective spokespeople to various government agencies on behalf of our members.

It was moved, seconded and approved that we adopt these values.

#### NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Bud Van Cleve announced that his NA followed up on 2 subdivisions - one that had been poorly developed with storm drainage problems and sinking yards and another that had removed trees on county property.

Bud is helping to design with the Parks Dept. a habitat trail going in Cougar Creek.

They are having a fun run on Sunday, August 17th. He urged us to attend a September 20 open house in the Public Safety Complex from 12-4 for law enforcement demonstrations.

October 25 is "Make a Difference Day".

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Gilbert, Secretary

Reviewed and edited by Doug Ballou, Chairman on August 20, 2003

Attachment: Notice to be sent to taxpayers in September 2003.

September 2003

Clark County Taxpayers:

This year, the Treasurer is mailing second-half tax statements at the same time the Assessor is mailing Notices of Value. Receiving these items concurrently may cause some confusion in the sequence of establishing property values and paying property taxes.

Currently, property owners receive a Notice of Value each year. The following year they are mailed a tax bill based on that value. For example, the values established in 2002 were used to set 2003 taxes.

The Treasurer's September 15<sup>th</sup> statements are for the second-half payment of ***this year's taxes (2003)***. The enclosed Notice of Value contains the assessed value of your real property that will be used to compute ***next year's taxes (2004)***.

When referring to property values and taxes, it is helpful to include both the value year and the tax year. For example, the Treasurer's statement is based on 2002 values for 2003 taxes. This notice establishes 2003 values for 2004 taxes.